

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19264

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: UNESCO: 104TH EX BD: ITEM 7.1.6: RESOLUTION
ON UN COMMITTEE ON INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS

REF.: A (PARIS 16631) B (STATE 134119) C (PARIS 18643)
1. SITUATION DESCRIBED IN REF ONE HAD CHANGED
SUBSTANTIALLY BY JUNE EIGHT WHEN THE ITEM CAME UP FOR
FINAL ACTION BEFORE PLENARY. (ACTION DESCRIBED IN REF
ONE WAS TAKEN IN PROGRAM AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
COMMISSION --PX). SINCE REF TWO WAS RECEIVED, WE HAD
SPOKEN WITH AFRICANS, AND IT WAS BECOMING CLEAR THAT IN
CASE OF A ROLL CALL VOTE, AGIOBU-KEMMER (NIGERIA), WHO
HAD INTRODUCED THE RESOLUTION IN THE PX COMMISSION,
WOULD CRACK THE WHIP AND DEMAND A "YES" VOTE FROM ALL
EIGHT OF THE AFRICAN EX BD MEMBERS FOR WHAT, BY
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THIS TIME HAD BECOME "HIS" RESOLUTION. SINCE SOME OF
THE AFRICAN MEMBERS HAD NOT TAKEN ANY PART IN THE VOTE
IN THE PX COMMISSION, AGIOBU'S INVOKING OF GROUP
DISCIPLINE IN PLENARY WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A HIGHER
VOTE IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION (I.E., AGAINST
ISRAEL) THAN WAS OBTAINED IN THE PX COMMISSION.
2. WE ALSO CONSULTED NON-AFRICAN MEMBERS, AND THEIR

REACTIONS INDICATED THAT WE COULD ONLY RELY FOR OUR SUPPORT ON THE SAME FOUR WEOS THAT VOTED WITH US IN COMMISSION.

3. IN ADDITION, THE UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT OF JUNE EIGHT (REF THREE) WHEN THERE DEVELOPED A TENSE DEBATE ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ISSUE (AGENDA ITEM 5.1.5) IN WHICH USDEL WAS THE MAIN PROTAGONIST ACTING ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL IN OPPOSITION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, CREATED A NEW AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH A ROLL CALL ON ITEM 7.1.6 HAD TO BE VIEWED. BY THE TIME 7.1.6 CAME UP (FRIDAY JUNE NINE) THE MOOD OF THE BOARD WAS TO DEAL WITH IT AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THERE WAS NO CERTAINTY THAT EVEN VIGOROUS PRESSURES COULD HAVE IMPROVED THE VOTE.

4. WE TOLD GOI PERM REP MEIR JOFFE THAT OUR SOUNDINGS HAD LED US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A ROLL CALL VOTE WOULD EXPOSE US TO A HIGH RISK OF HAVING MORE PEOPLE VOTE THE WRONG WAY IN PLENARY THAN IN THE PX COMMISSION. JOFFE, AND LATER AMBASSADOR NAJAR, SAID THAT THE ONLY POINT IN HAVING A ROLL CALL WAS TO REDUCE THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION, AND THEY DID NOT WANT TO ASK FOR IT OTHERWISE. THEY RELIED ON OUR JUDGMENT AS TO THE PROBABLE OUTCOME.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, USDEL DECIDED NOT TO ASK FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE, AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. USDEL MADE A CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF A POSITION, STATING THAT HAD THEIR BEEN A VOTE, WE WOULD HAVE VOTED AGAINST, BECAUSE OF THE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. STATEMENT WAS ALONG THE LINES OF THAT WORKED OUT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES FOR USE IN PX COMMISSION. FRANCE, FRG, SWITZERLAND, AND BELGIUM MADE STATEMENTS OF EXPLANATION IN WHICH THEY BACKED AWAY FROM THE CONSENSUS WITHOUT FORMALLY BREAKING CONSENSUS. EX BD CHAIRMAN MARTIN (UK) SAID THAT HAD HE BEEN AT THE BENCH AND VOTING, HE VERY LIKELY WOULD HAVE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE A POSITION SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY THE OTHER SPEAKERS MENTIONED ABOVE. TORRES

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